

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claim 49 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (previously presented): An isolated polynucleotide comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claims 6-8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (previously presented): An isolated polynucleotide which encodes a polypeptide that comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claims 10-11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (original): An Escherichia coli strain Top10/pXK99EdeA deposited as DSM 14464.

Claims 13-33 (canceled)

Claim 34 (previously presented): An isolated polynucleotide comprising nucleotides 259 to 2130 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 35 (previously presented): An isolated polynucleotide consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment of SEQ ID NO: 1 that encodes a polypeptide having the enzymatic activity of a DNA/RNA helicase.

Claim 36 (canceled)

Claim 37 (previously presented): An isolated polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of the complete complement of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 38 (previously presented): A vector comprising the isolated polynucleotide of any of the claims 5, 9, 34 or 37.

Claim 39 (canceled)

Claim 40 (previously presented): An isolated polynucleotide consisting of a DNA fragment of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein said fragment consists of at least 30 consecutive nucleotides.

Claim 41 (canceled)

Claim 42 (previously presented): An isolated polynucleotide consisting of a DNA fragment of the complete complement of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein said fragment consists of at least 30 consecutive nucleotides.

Claim 43 (previously presented): A vector comprising an isolated polynucleotide, wherein said isolated polynucleotide consists of the isolated polynucleotide of claim 40 or 42.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The vector of claim 43, wherein said vector is pXK99EdeaD deposited in Escherichia coli Top/pXK99EdeaD under DSM 14464.

Claim 45 (previously presented): A primer consisting of a DNA fragment of SEQ ID NO: 1 or of the complete complement of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein said fragment consists of at least 30 consecutive nucleotides.

Claim 46 (previously presented): The primer of claim 45, wherein said DNA fragment consists of at least 40 consecutive nucleotides.

Claim 47 (previously presented): A probe consisting of a DNA fragment of SEQ ID NO: 1 or of the complete complement of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein said fragment consists of at least 30 consecutive nucleotides.

Claim 48 (previously presented): The probe of claim 47, wherein said DNA fragment consists of at least 40 consecutive nucleotides.

Claims 49 and 50 (canceled)

Claim 51 (previously presented): A recombinant host cell of the genus *Corynebacterium* or of the species *Escherichia coli* comprising the vector of claim 43.

Claim 52 (previously presented): The host cell of claim 51, wherein said host cell is of the species *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.

Claim 53 (previously presented): A vector comprising an isolated polynucleotide, wherein said isolated polynucleotide consists of the isolated polynucleotide of claim 35.

Claim 54 (previously presented): A bacterium of the species *Escherichia coli* comprising a vector which includes an isolated polynucleotide, wherein said isolated polynucleotide consists of the isolated polynucleotide of claim 35.